



U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

James L. Oberstar
Chairman

Washington, DC 20515

John L. Mica
Ranking Republican Member

David Heymsfeld, Chief of Staff
Ward W. McCarragher, Chief Counsel

James W. Coon II, Republican Chief of Staff

March 19, 2010

Dr. Douglas W. Elmendorf
Director
Congressional Budget Office
2nd and D Streets, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Director Elmendorf:


On March 10, 2010, the House of Representatives passed H.R. 4786, a bill to provide authority to compensate Federal employees for the 2-day period in which authority to make expenditures from the Highway Trust Fund lapsed.

Due to the time-sensitive nature of this bill, it was discharged from the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure rather than reported and, therefore, no formal cost estimate was prepared by the Congressional Budget Office (CBO). Instead, CBO provided an informal analysis to the Committee on the Budget, indicating that the bill would have no budgetary impact.

I appreciate CBO's timely response to our need for an informal analysis before the bill was considered by the House last week. However, it would also be helpful to have a written cost estimate, to allay any concerns about the potential cost of this legislation. Therefore, I hereby request a formal CBO cost estimate for H.R. 4786, as passed by the House.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



James L. Oberstar, M.C.
Chairman